

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, ~~wherein~~

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

[[and]]

relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second frame;

relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to ~~a second~~ said set of byte locations of said second frame; and cross-connecting said time slots.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:
selecting at least one of said time slots.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;
sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;
randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and
outputting said outgoing time slots.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:
extracting said network management information; and
routing said network management information.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connecting comprises:

selecting at least one of said time slots.

62. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, ~~wherein~~

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

[[and]]

means for relocating existing network management information of said second

frame from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte

locations of said second frame;

means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations

of said first frame to ~~a second~~ said set of byte locations of said second frame;

and

means for cross-connecting said time slots.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for selecting at least one of said time slots.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers;

and

means for outputting said outgoing time slots.

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for extracting said network management information; and

means for routing said network management information.

67. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said ~~cross-connect~~ means for cross-connecting comprises:

means for selecting at least one of said time slots.

68. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, ~~wherein~~

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to ~~a second~~ said set of byte locations of said second frame; ~~[[and]]~~

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-connect said time slots, and

computer readable storage media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in said computer readable storage media.

69. **(Cancelled)**

70. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

a ~~fifth~~ fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots.

71. **(Currently Amended)** The computer program product of claim 70, further comprising:

a ~~sixth~~ fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a plurality of incoming time slots;

a ~~seventh~~ sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;
a ~~eighth~~ seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to randomly read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and
an ~~ninth~~ eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to output said outgoing time slots.

72. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

a ~~fifth~~ fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to extract said network management information; and
a ~~sixth~~ fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at least one of said time slots.